

8th Grade English Final -- Essay Rubric

COMPONENT OF ESSAY	Not Done or Insufficient	Developing	Good	Excellent
Introduction paragraph: You wrote a title, lead and bridge sentences that directly relate to choices that different characters make. You include a summary of each text and provide the setting, back-story and identity conflict for the characters. You include author names, titles, and a thesis statement summarizing your observations of character choices relating to identity challenges.	0-5 You don't write a title, lead or bridge sentences and only include brief summaries of the text that are not accurate or relevant to the identity conflict of the main characters. The backstory of their identity challenges is incomplete, and you include one of the authors and titles. You write a thesis statement that relates to plot details but not character choices about identity challenges.	6-7 You write a title but don't write a lead and only include bridge sentences and general brief summaries of the text that are not accurate or relevant to the identity conflict of the main characters. The back-story of their identity challenges is incomplete, but you include both authors and titles and write a thesis statement that relates to plot details but not character choices about identity challenges.	8-9 You write a thematic title, a general lead but no bridge sentences and include mostly all accurate and relevant summaries of the text that trace the identity conflict of the main characters and the backstory of their identity challenges.. You include both authors and titles and write a thesis statement that relates to character choices about identity challenges.	10 You write a thematic title, lead and specific bridge sentences and include all accurate and relevant summaries of the text that trace the identity conflict of the main characters and the backstory of their identity challenges. You include both authors and titles and write a thesis statement that relates to character choices about identity challenges.
Body paragraphs: For each paragraph, you write a topic sentence that uses the word BECAUSE and identify two specific scenes and three-four matching quotes with proper integration and citation to explore and analyze the choice or decision made by a main character of a text relating to his or her identity conflict. You explore the reason behind the choice or decision. You include two lines and citations from the poem to explore the choice or reason behind it.	0-10 For each paragraph, you have a general topic sentence, 1 or fewer scenes, 1 or fewer quotes, and 1 or fewer poetry lines that support your main idea. You don't explain the scenes or quotes or use the poem to explore the underlying reasons for character conduct. You provide little context for each scene but don't properly integrate most of the quotes or explain them in your own words. You don't provide most in-text citation or poetry citation for your quotes.	12-14 For each paragraph, you have a general topic sentence, 2 scenes, 2 quotes, and 2 poetry lines that support your main idea. You don't analyze the scenes or quotes, but you use the poem to explore the underlying reasons for the character conduct. You provide some context for each scene and properly integrate some of the quotes, but don't explain most of them in your own words. You provide some in-text citation or poetry citation for your quotes.	16-18 For each paragraph, you have a detailed topic sentence, 2 scenes, 2 quotes and 2 poetry lines that support your main idea. You analyze the scenes and quotes, but you don't use the poem to explore the underlying reasons for character conduct. You provide mostly enough context for each scene, properly integrate all but one of the quotes, explain most of them in your own words, and include an in-text citation or poetry citation for all of your quotes.	20 For each paragraph, you have a detailed topic sentence, 2 scenes, 3-4 quotes and 2 poetry lines that support your main idea. You explain the scenes and quotes and use the poem to explore the underlying reasons for character conduct. You provide sufficient context for each scene, integrate the quotes using the speaker or narrator and explain all the quotes in your own words, and include an in-text or poetry citation.

Conclusion Paragraph: You evaluate the decisions of the each character and the way in which he or she resolves or tries to resolve the identity challenges. You identify which character makes the better choice and why. You examine the similarities and differences in the lessons learned by the two characters. You use those lessons to give advice about how people should resolve identity challenges.	0-2 Your conclusion sentence identifies one of the character's choice or advice, but doesn't relate a thematic lesson or give specific advice about how people should resolve identity challenges.	3-3.75 Your conclusion sentences identify important lessons learned by one character and give general advice about how people should resolve identity challenges.	4-4.5 Your conclusion sentences identify important thematic lessons learned by both character, but give non-specific advice about how people should resolve identity challenges.	5 Your conclusion sentences identify important thematic lessons that are learned by both characters and give detailed advice about how people should resolve identity challenges.
Language and Grammar: You avoid first person pronouns (I, me, us, we, our). You include specific and vivid words and avoid vague words (good, bad, nice, stuff, things, okay). You use complete sentences and do not use fragments. You punctuate each sentence with a period or other appropriate mark. You use correct capitalization and spelling of proper nouns for names of main characters, authors and geographic locations and for words that follow the IE rule, include homophones. You accurately and correctly record all quotes, page numbers and lines from the texts and the poem.	0-8 You use more than 7 first person pronouns and there are 7 or more errors in grammar or punctuation. Some of your vocabulary is specific but there are many vague words. Some characters names and geographic locations are either spelled wrong or are not properly capitalized. Many mistakes are made with respect to the quoted text, page numbers, titles of the texts and poem, and the names of the authors.	9-11 You use more than 5 first pronouns and there are 5 errors in grammar or punctuation. Most of your vocabulary is specific but there are some vague words. Character names are spelled correctly, but some geographic locations are not properly spelled or capitalized. A few mistakes are made with respect to the quote text, page numbers, titles of the texts and poem, and the names of the authors.	12-14 You use 3-4 first person pronouns and most proper nouns (names of characters, states, countries, etc.) are correctly spelled and capitalized. Most of your vocabulary is specific and there are only a few vague words. Quoted text, page numbers, and titles of texts and poem, and their authors' names are mostly accurate and properly recorded.	15 You use 1-2 first person pronouns and there are 1-2 errors in grammar or punctuation. All of your vocabulary is specific. All proper nouns (names of characters, states, countries, etc.) are correctly spelled and capitalized. Quote text, page numbers, titles of texts and poem, and names of their authors are correct and properly recorded.

ESSAY TOTAL = /50